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FLOOR DEBATE

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also important to the beef producers. The idea of a tax on the gluten feed was my idea about three or four years ago. I wish I hadn't have brought it up, but I did. Senator Wehrbein, if you're listening, Senator Wehrbein, if you're listening, how much does LB 775 cost the state of Nebraska on an annual basis?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Wehrbein, would you respond?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I think I told you originally \$130 million to \$140 million a year.

SENATOR SCHROCK: And how much does...so we're probably talking about, what, \$1 billion? We're talking over \$1 billion worth of money for LB 775 tax incentives.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I've seen the numbers. I can't remember, but I suppose you could...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Easily over \$1 billion. How much money have we spent on ethanol tax incentives? And I recognize that some of the plants get LB 775 benefits also. But over the lifetime of the ethanol program in the state, how much General Fund money has been spent?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it's \$28 million, plus LB 775 benefits.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So it's \$5 million...

SENATOR SCHROCK: But it's \$28 million, and the rest has really come from...well, but then there's been some grain checkoff and there's been some fertilizer tax.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right.

SENATOR SCHROCK: You know, my area of the state doesn't get much benefit from LB 775. I've supported all the time. I would appreciate the urban senators who would help us out on this one. And by that I mean, I think a little gas tax is appropriate. I think it...if it wasn't for ethanol, I think you'd be paying